

Message Text

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UNCLAS LAGOS 02746

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TAGS: OEXC, NI (ADERIBIGBE, A.B.)

SUBJECT: NOMINATION FOR IV GRANT: PROF. ADERIBIGBE

REF: LAGOS 1692

1. POST NOMINATES PROF. A.B. ADERIBIGBE, DEAN FACULTY OF ARTS, PROFESSOR AND HEAD HISTORY DEPARTMENT, UNILAG, FOR 30 DAY INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT TO FOLLOW HIS ATTENDANCE AT AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THE GRANT WOULD COME UNDER TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY.

2. BIODATA FOLLOWS:

FULL NAME : PROFESSOR ADEYEMI BANDELE ADERIBIGBE

PRESENT POSITION: DEAN, FACULTY OF ARTS
PROFESSOR AND HEAD, HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
YABA

PAST POSITIONS: DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY LAGOS, 1971-73:

CHAIRMAN, CEREMONIES COMMITTEE, 1971-73:
CHAIRMAN, STUDENTS' WELFARE BOARD, 1971-73:
CHAIRMAN, FACULTY OF ARTS COMMITTEE, 1965:
DEAN OF ARTS, APRIL 1966 - AUGUST, 1971:
DEAN, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, 1967-71:
MEMBER OF COUNCIL UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

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DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: MARCH 5, 1924: LAGOS, LAGOS STATE

PRESENT CITIZENSHIP: NIGERIA: NONE PREVIOUS

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO THE US: JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1967

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES: UNITED KINGDOM 1949-59:

SUMMER OF 1960, 1961, 1962, 1968, 1972:

GHANA, DEC. 1962: JULY 1973, 1974 AND 1975:

USSR JULY 1968: GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,

1973: ETHIOPIA 1973: SENEGAL 1967 AND 1976

PREVIOUS USG GRANT : 1967 - INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT

VISA ELIGIBILITY: NAMECHECK SATISFACTORY, VISA ELIGIBLE

REASONS FOR NOMINATION: PROF. ADERIBIGBE, SINCE COMING TO UNILAG IN 1965, HAS MAINTAINED CONSTANT POSITION OF INFLUENCE AND RESPECT AMONG STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR COLLEAGUES. POLITICALLY ASTUTE, KEENLY INTELLIGENT, HE HAS, IN HIS ROLES AS DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR, DEAN AND PROFESSOR, CONSUMED A "FOLKSY" TOUCH WHICH HAS ENABLED HIM TO ARBITRATE MANY POLITICALLY CHARGED CAMPUS SITUATIONS THAT COULD HAVE ERUPTED INTO CHAOS WITHOUT HIS SENSITIVE/TIMELY INTERCESSION. A TEACHER OF LEADERS AND A LEADER HIMSELF, ADERIBIGBE IS -- AFTER VICE CHANCELLOR -- PERHAPS SECOND MOST IMPORTANT/INFLUENTIAL PERSON ON UNILAG CAMPUS. ACTIVE IN UNIVERSITY/CIVIC AFFAIRS IN LAGOS AND NIGERIA HIS OPINIONS AS HISTORIAN/EDUCATOR ARE OFTEN SOUGHT AND HIS ADVICE HIGHLY RESPECTED. INTERACTING ON DAILY BASIS WITH NIGERIA'S LEADERS/FUTURE LEADERS AND DECISION MAKERS, ADERIBIGBE IN KEY POSITION INTERPRET U.S. POLICY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY TO BROAD CROSS SECTION OF NIGERIANS WHOSE ATTITUDES COUNT IN OVERALL FRAMEWORK US/NIGERIAN RELATIONS.

OBJECTIVES OF US VISIT: ALTHOUGH PROF. ADERIBIGBE VISITED U.S.

ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO (1967) AND WHILE MANY OF HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF COUNTRY AND PEOPLE ARE INDELIBLY IMPRINTED, HE HAS NO IDEA OF SWEEPING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC HISTORICAL CHANGES THAT HAVE COME ABOUT DURING INTERIM DECADE.
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RENEWED EXPOSURE IN SETTING OF ATLANTA CONFERENCE, INTERACTION WITH AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS IN "NEW SOUTH," AND OPPORTUNITY REASSESS AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS/VALUES COULD NOT COME AT MORE PROPITIOUS TIME THAN DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. ADERIBIGBE, A GREAT BELIEVER AND EXPONENT OF NIGERIAN/AMERICAN PARRALLES IN DEVELOPMENT/HISTORY WOULD SERVE AS IDEAL INTERPRETER OF CURRENT AMERICAN SCENE AND COULD, IN HIS POSITION AS TEACHER/LEADER/

DECISION MAKER HAVE STRONG MULTIPLIER EFFECT AMONG HIS STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES. AS HISTORIAN, ADERIBIGBE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING U.S. AGAINST A BACKDROP OF BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES THAT WILL EXPOSE HIM TO CROSS SECTION OF COUNTRY, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

AVAILABILITY FOR US VISIT: APRIL 21, 1976

3. ALTERNATE: DR.C.C. IFEMESIA
READER
HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
NSUKKA

4. ADVISE.
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